

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of controlling a laser diode for use in an optical disk player, the laser diode reading a data signal from an optical disk, said method comprising the steps of:

creating a data playback clock signal from said data signal; and

turning off light emitted from said laser diode in synchronism with said data playback clock signal.

2. A method of controlling a laser diode for use in an optical disk player as set forth in claim 1, wherein said laser diode is switched from continuous operation to intermittent operation after said data playback clock signal has stabilized.

3. A method of controlling a laser diode for use in an optical disk player as set forth in claim 1 or 2, wherein said laser diode is switched from continuous operation to intermittent operation according to a focus lock signal produced when laser light is focused onto a surface of the disk.

4. A method of controlling a laser diode for use in an optical disk player as set forth in claim 1 or 2, wherein said laser diode is switched from intermittent operation to continuous operation according to a mute signal obtained when sound is muted.

5. A method of controlling a laser diode for use in an optical disk player as set forth in any one of claims 1-4, wherein the light from said laser diode is turned off in

synchronism with a signal obtained by multiplying said data playback clock signal created from the data signal that is read from the optical disk.

6. A method of controlling a laser diode for use in an optical disk player as set forth in any one of claims 1-5, wherein the ratio of a time for which said laser diode is made to emit to a time for which said laser diode is not made to emit is varied at will.

7. A laser control circuit for an optical disk player, comprising:

a frequency multiplier circuit for receiving a data playback clock signal created from a data signal that is read from an optical disk and multiplying said data playback clock signal;

a pulse width-adjusting circuit for adjusting the ratio of the width of ON pulse of the output signal from said frequency multiplier circuit to the width of OFF pulse to an arbitrary value;

a mode-switching circuit for receiving the output signal from said pulse width-adjusting circuit and a focus lock signal produced when laser light directed to a surface of the disk is brought to a focus, as well as a mute signal obtained when sound is muted, and for switching the mode of operation of said laser diode between continuous operation and intermittent operation in which the laser diode emits intermittently according

to the output signal from said pulse width-adjusting circuit;

a laser diode driver circuit for controlling emission of said laser diode according to the output from said mode-switching circuit; a laser diode, whose emission is controlled by a laser diode driver circuit; and

said mode-switching circuit acting to switch the mode of operation of said laser diode from continuous operation to intermittent operation according to a focus lock signal produced when said laser light directed to the disk surface is brought to a focus and to switch the mode of operation of said laser diode from intermittent operation to continuous operation according to a mute signal obtained when sound is muted.

8. A laser control circuit for an optical disk player having a driver circuit for controlling emission of a laser diode for reading an optical disk, said laser control circuit comprising:

a frequency multiplier circuit for receiving a data playback clock signal created from a data signal that is read from said optical disk and multiplying said data playback clock signal; and

said driver circuit producing a drive signal for driving said laser diode according to an output signal from said frequency multiplier circuit to cause said laser diode to emit intermittently in synchronism with said data playback clock

signal.